



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE ALEX PADILLA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT:

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California Secretary of State Alex Padilla Prepares for Surge in Voter Turnout

Seeks Additional Resources for Printing and Staffing for Primary and General Elections

SACRAMENTO – California Secretary of State Alex Padilla has reached out to Governor Jerry Brown, legislative leaders, and county elections officials in anticipation of a surge in voter turnout in the June 7, Presidential Primary Election and the November 8, General Election.

“I intend to work with the Governor and the legislature to move quickly to ensure we have the resources necessary to conduct smooth and successful elections,” Padilla said. In a memo last week, the Secretary of State urged county elections officials to “ensure each polling place has a sufficient number of ballots on hand to manage the anticipated increase in turnout that has been observed in other states.”

[Click here for the Secretary of State’s memo to county elections officials on sufficient ballot supplies](#)

“High interest in the 2016 election cycle, a significant rise in the use of online voter registration, growing demand for registration cards, and increased voter turnout in neighboring states suggests that California could see a major surge in voter turnout,” Secretary of State Padilla said today.

Padilla has reached out to Governor Brown and legislative leaders requesting \$32 million to ensure that California’s 58 county election officials and the office of Secretary of State have adequate resources to conduct the June and November elections while also verifying petitions for as many as 21 potential ballot measures. “Counties will need more resources,” Padilla said.

The funding would cover increased printing costs for a much larger General Election Statewide Voter Information Guide, as well as additional staff time to process initiative petitions and administer elections.

In his letter, Padilla expressed concerns about printing costs. “With as many as 21 potential ballot measures, the principal voter guide for the November General Election may be between 208 and 256 pages long. If the Legislature adds three measures, the principal voter information guide could grow to 288 pages,” explained Padilla.



ALEX PADILLA
CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE

April 4, 2016

The Honorable Jerry Brown, Governor
State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

As California Secretary of State and California's Chief Elections Officer, it is my responsibility to oversee the administration of the upcoming statewide elections. Our data suggests a surge in voter participation in both the Presidential Primary Election in June and the General Election in November. For example, in just the past three months more than 600,000 California citizens have used our online voter registration site to register to vote, or update their registration. Western states that have already conducted their presidential primary election have seen voter turnout for major parties surpass the turnout for the 2012 primary election and approach or equal the voter turnout of the 2008 primary election.

With interest growing rapidly, California's 58 county elections officials will face higher than average costs. Voter registration cards are in high demand – one campaign recently requested 200,000 cards. Also, counties must print additional ballots and ensure that polling places have adequate "crossover" ballots on hand for those parties that conduct open primaries. Counties must also ensure compliance with both language access and voter access required under federal law.

There will be a need for increased staffing resources in many counties. In the coming months, county elections officials must verify a massive number of signatures on initiative petitions for the November election at the same time they are preparing for the June election. Thirteen measures are still in circulation – eight that amend statute and five that amend the constitution. Depending on how many measures go to a full signature count, counties could be required to verify as many as 9.4 million signatures. It is expected that many of these measures will be submitted to counties at, or just prior to, the filing deadline.

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In addition, we will face higher printing costs for additional voter information guides in June, and much higher printing costs for the General Election. With as many as 21 potential ballot measures, the principal voter guide for the November General Election may be between 208 and 256 pages long. If the Legislature adds three measures, the principal voter information guide could grow to 288 pages. Either way we anticipate printing multiple volumes.

On June 7 and November 8, all eyes will be on California. I am requesting a meeting to discuss these and any other issues to ensure that California counties have the resources and time necessary to conduct smooth and successful elections in the months ahead.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alex Padilla", written in a cursive style.

Alex Padilla
California Secretary of State

cc: The Honorable Kevin de León, Senate President pro Tempore
The Honorable Jean Fuller, Senate Republican Leader
The Honorable Anthony Rendon, Speaker of the Assembly
The Honorable Chad Mayes, Assembly Republican Leader

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